

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are active in the case. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Tran for the recent and helpful telephonic discussion concerning the issues in this case.

The Examiner is thanked for the indication of allowable subject matter in the form of Claim 9.

The present invention relates to a process for producing an absorption layer for a solar cell.

Claim Amendments, 35 USC 112, first paragraph

Applicants have amended Claim 1 to eliminate the “B” designations of the Group I, III and VI elements. A person of ordinary skill would immediately recognize that Cu and Ag are Group I metals. Moreover, it is believed that that the description of the specification and claims makes it abundantly clear that Group III elements are Al, Ga and In and Group VI elements are S, Se and Te. Applicants have therefore removed the subgeneric letter identifications from the claims.

As to the matter of the phrase at issue in the paragraph bridging pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action concerning the concluding clause in the description of step (ii) of the process of Claim 1, applicants have deleted the same from the claim so that it no longer is of issue. In the second step a film of I₂-VI compound is formed on the thin film of the first step. This deposition of material does not result in the formation of a compound of elements of Groups I, III and VI at the end of the second step. A group I element such as Cu is introduced into and reacts with the top layer resulting from step(ii) to form a thin film with the two elements of the second step.

Finally, applicants have amended Claims 7 and 10 to define x as ranging from 0 to 1, support for which can be found on page 10 of the specification. No new matter is believed to have been introduced into the case by the amendments that have been made. Entry of all of the amendments to the claims into the record is respectfully requested.

It is believed that the application is in proper condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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